

## Spotlight

# Patented B-52's humor brings Private Idaho to N.C.

You'll have to swallow three premises before you consider these observations of a certain Athens foursome.

First, the B-52's defy categorization. Second, the band gave new wave a semblance of competence. And third, this reviewer would blackmarket her little brother any day for the chance to fry tofu with Fred Schneider, Kate Pierson, Cindy Wilson and Keith Strickland.

The B-52's brought their own private Idaho to North Carolina last week. They landed in Greensboro Wednesday to launch UNC-Greensboro's homecoming, then traveled to Raleigh Friday.

Their first site, Aycock Auditorium, was less than ideal — concert hell for the peons up front. Six police officers

### Carrie McLaren Concert

and a swarm of collegiate security workers formed a human wall up front to prevent incidental outbreaks of gratuitous violence.

Any attempt to slip past inattentive eyes was further deterred by a five-foot-deep orchestra pit covered with a sheet of plywood. One emphatic push and a few eager boppers would take an unexpected plunge. Imagine this uncomfortable risk coupled with a party band — not just any party band, as the word party conjures up images of Spuds MacKenzie and beefy fratdaddies —

but a genuinely fun, every-day-can-be-a-party band. It's like giving a high school freshman her first beer and slapping her when she laughs.

The gap between the stage and the audience didn't win any favors from the band either. Only two songs into the set, the authorities carted a front-line dissenter outside. Schneider, vocalist/comedian/hero, stopped the show to inject reason. "Excuse me, but did anyone see him do anything wrong? Mr. Policeman... MR. POLICEMAN!? Please bring him back."

The audience blew off tension in the dance floor cut-up that followed, "Private Idaho." Though the band certainly lived the fun, Wilson appeared less than lively. Most likely, the poor girl had fallen victim to the side effects of a

coffee achiever's lifestyle. But even without her bouffant, she looked great and sounded even better.

And naturally, the band members pulled their patented on-stage antics. A toy piano, cowbells and a walkie-talkie played roles in the musical scheme. For "Strobe Light," Schneider brought along his plastic phone to further the narrative. Instead of adhering to his own lyrics, he asked into the receiver, "Is that you, Debbiecakes? It's me, Cream-filled Devil Dog."

But before your mind descends into interpreting innuendo, realize that the B-52's off-the-wall lyrics are anything but degenerate. When sex is discussed, it's not exploitative, but funny.

More than providing transient nov-

elties, the band has grown with the decade. A few lyrical ornaments update 1970s hits. In the Greensboro rendition of "Strobe Light," Schneider pulled the phone stunt by calling Wilson Nutrasweet.

The B-52's comic relief isn't without substance. Without bombasting the audience with politics, both Pierson and Schneider put in a good word for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. An information table for PETA follows the band on all its tour stops.

An ample mix of old and new songs showcased the band's increasing environmental concerns as well as its wit. The early staples "Lava," "Rock Lobster" and "Give Me Back My Man"

kept old fans happy. Material off *Whammy* was conspicuously absent. In contrast, the band played nearly the entire contents of *Cosmic Thing* in light of its heightened social awareness.

The band ended the show with "Channel Z," a song that expresses a natural response to all the environmental horrors that go on, according to Strickland. Instead of moaning, "Channel Z" offers hope of a different end.

You could change the channel. But no one would want to miss these chronically happy savors of youth. Like old M\*A\*S\*H episodes, the B-52's credit substance with humor. Don't just label them silly and crazy. A lot of bands depend on humor, but only one, the B-52's, endures.

### BOT

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Another part of TDI possibly in effect is the allowance of the Association of Student Governments (ASG) president to present a regular report at UNC-system Board of Governors (BOG) meetings.

ASG President and Student Congress speaker Gene Davis said he was introduced to the BOG by President Roddy Jones and was told he would be allowed to give a report at the next meeting, Nov. 10. He was not sure whether his report would be a regular part of the meeting.

"I'm working towards trying to see if I can report on a regular basis," Davis said.

In other business, the BOT delayed the choosing of an architectural firm for the SRC until a December meeting

and gave the architect recommendation back to the SRC committee for further deliberation.

Lisa Frye, president of the Carolina Athletic Association (CAA) and a member of the SRC committee, said the committee picked the architect from a field of 50 applicants narrowed to three choices ranked in order of preference. The committee worked in conjunction with Facilities Planning, she said.

The next architect recommended would probably be the committee's second choice, Frye said.

After approval of an architect, the SRC committee will hold open meetings to decide building design issues.

### Threshold

were pleased with how well the conference went.

"Students came away with clear ideas," said James Langman, conference chairman. "They're ready to work together and start a unified student movement on a local and a national level."

Guettel said the participants fulfilled the goals for the conference. "It was better than expected. One of our objectives was to educate people about the most effective methods of grassroots activism. We went over them here. Another objective was to build a new student movement and campaign. That was the greatest success of this conference."

SEAC member Sharon Wells said she had received a lot of compliments on the organization of the conference and the selection of the speakers.

"I think it went very well. The discussion groups allowed everyone to really talk. Everyone will go back with a goal to work towards."

Students who attended Threshold said they learned a great deal at the conference.

"The conference got a lot of environmentalists with different priorities together," said Dana Hollish, a sophomore at George Washington University. "We want to do something for all the concerns, but we have to choose one. The conference will have a lot of

aftereffects. It will bring about more big conventions like this more often."

Paul Haight, a sophomore at Georgetown University, said he was pleased to see people show they wanted to do something about the environment.

"I like the fact that people want to do something specific, but there are a lot of conflicting views," Haight said. Wasserman emphasized that students

don't need strategies.

"I expected a low-key, moderate conference of maybe 300 people," said Heather Fuller, a sophomore at UNC. "It was enormous. To see all the passion from so many students was incredible. It was almost shocking."

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### SRC

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that there has been collusion, public figures were irresponsible, students' trust violated and information withheld. And I think information is still being withheld."

Further increases are also likely, Beall said. "I predict there will be more increases as well as surprises."

As a student congress representative, Beall said he felt it was his job to continue giving students all the information that the CAA refuses to offer publicly. "I will continue to release more press releases if I receive new significant information, and I think an increase from \$3.5 million to \$4.9 million is pretty significant."

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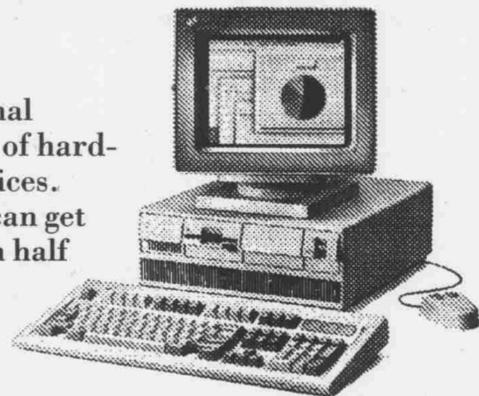
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